

THE BULLETIN



Publication of the Overseas Press Club of America • World Press Center, 55 East 43rd Street, N.Y. 10017 • (212) 687-2430

CALENDAR

Monday, March 18 – OPC Theater Night – Backers audition of "Wings," modern musical adaptation of the Greek comedy "The Birds" by Aristophanes. Scheduled for off-Broadway production. (See page 3)

SPECIAL

Thursday, March 21, at noon
HEADLINER'S LUNCHEON WITH
MAYOR ABE BEAME
Cocktails at noon, luncheon at 12:30 (\$9 incl. tax & tips).

Thursday, March 21, 5:30 p.m. Talking Shop With Osborn Elliott, Editor. Newsweek. (Details on page 3)

Friday, March 22, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Twilight Jazz tribute to America's oldest black musical organization "New Amsterdam Musical Association" with Eva Taylor, famed vocalist. Earl "Fatha" Hines, host. (See page 3)

Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m. Book Night with Merle Miller, author of "Plain Speaking," The Oral Biography of President Harry S. Truman. Reception and cocktails.

Wednesday, March 27, 12:30 p.m. Headliner's Luncheon. Bruce Rankin, Consul General of Canada, will speak on "Canadian Energy in America's Future." (\$8 incl. tax & tips, cash bar).

For reservations please call Mary Novick, 687-2430.

Tuesday, April 2, 5:30 p.m. OPC's 35th ANNIVERSARY PARTY, Music memories and much ado about that certain something that has helped us to survive our vicissitudes. — This will be a fun party. (Details on this page)

OPC'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY SET FOR APRIL 2-

Twenty living OPC past presidents will share their memories of the club's first 35 years with OPC members and friends at an anniversary party Tuesday, April 2, in the club's new 19th floor headquarters in the Hotel Biltmore.

Eugene Lyons, OPC president in 1940-44, heads the list of invited former presidents who will participate — either in person or by tape, if distance precludes attendance by some ex-No. 1 men.

The OPC presidential roll-call rings with memories of the mid-century's great events and the by-lines and radio/TV names who clarified the news and made the reporters themselves famous: Lowell Thomas, W.W. Chaplin, Bob Considine, Frank Kelley, Louis P. Lochner, John C. Daly, J. Clifford Stark, Wayne Richardson, Cecil Brown, Thomas P. Whitney, John Wilhelm, John Luter, Richard J.H. Johnston, Will Yolen, Barrett McGurn, Merrill Mueller, Victor Riesel, Hal

Lehrman, Will Oursler plus Jack Raymond, current OPC president.

Bob Considine will M.C. the 35th anniversary program which will also include Dixieland jazz by the No-Gap Generation Jazz Band and the "Nostalgia Girl" herself, Maxine Sullivan. Hines and Miss Sullivan are honorary co-presidents of the Overseas Jazz Club — one of the OPC's two offspring. The other: the OPC Yacht Club.

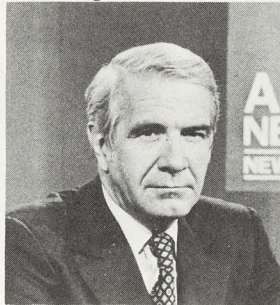
The party kicks off at 5:30 p.m., the jazz program goes on at 6:30 and the presidential nostalgia at 7 o'clock. Reservations are required (phone 687-2430). The tab is \$5, to cover hors d'oeuvres and party incidentals.

Naturally, the bar will be ready to help freshen memories of the years since 1939 when the OPC had its genesis at Rocky's Bar on 9th Street and Sixth Avenue. It will be a grand night for remembering so come on out and join the fun on April 2.

REASONER TO M.C. ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Harry Reasoner, ABC-TV news commentator, will M.C. the OPC's annual Awards Dinner, the club's tribute to news men and women who excelled in press, radio, TV and magazine coverage of world events during 1973, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on Mon., April 22 — opening day of the American Newspaper Publishers Association convention in New York.

Reasoner, who shares the ABC Evening News slot with Howard K.



Harry Reasoner
TV.

Smith, is one of the more perceptive and pungent observers of the U.S. and world news scene. He also does a weekly documentary. The Reasoner Report, on ABC-

Despite steadily rising costs over

the past year, this year's black-tie event in the Waldorf's Grand Ballroom is priced at last year's level — \$25 each for OPC member and one guest. Tickets for other non-member guests will be \$35, with ten-seat preferential tables set at \$50 per ticket. For early reservations, please phone.

Invitations are now in the mail but OPC members who have suggestions for other possible ticket purchasers are asked to call 697-9310.

The name of the dinner speaker, a
(Continued on page 4)

TALKING SHOP WITH

Osborn Elliott, Editor and Chairman of the Board of Newsweek, will headline the "shop talk" on March 21. (See Calendar)



OPC PREMIERE WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS

By RALPH LEVITON

With a big boost from NBC News and the Deadline Club of Sigma Delta Chi, the Overseas Press Club's premiere event at its new home — the Biltmore Hotel — was a smashing success.

More than 260 members and guests packed the Grand Ballroom of the hotel to hear the urbane John Chancellor anchor a team of NBC News correspondents reporting, live and on tape, from around the world. Even ink-stained wretches of the print media had to admit the "World News Conference" was a highly professional endeavor.

Among the far-flung NBC newsmen reporting was Jack Russell in Tokyo who was at his microphone at about 2 a.m. to talk to the New York audience. Chancellor asked him how the oil shortage is affecting the Japanese economy and Russell replied that the big problem in Japan is inflation which could lead to public and labor unrest. However, he thought that Japan Inc. would be able to maintain its production at a pretty high level this year despite the difficulty of getting oil.

The big news story of the day was the British election and Garrick Utley reported from London that there was a heavy voter turnout, perhaps 80% of the electorate. At about 5:30 p.m. London time, Utley said the Conservatives were slightly ahead but the Liberals were making a strong showing. Despite the oil shortage and the coal strike, Utley assured U.S. listeners that Britons are not shivering under their quilts.

David Burrington reported from Tel Aviv that negotiations between Syria and Israel will take a long time. Syria has not yet indicated it is willing to coexist with Israel, he noted, and Israel will loathe to give up territory in the Golan Heights.

Replying to a question from the audience, Chancellor, one of the journalists who had visited the Chinese mainland, advised: "Don't pack your bags for a trip to China." He said the Chinese don't appear to be interested in "sharing" the Great Wall with outsiders or in attracting tourists.

Among the prerecorded reports,

Tom Streithorst observed from Buenos Aires that South America is a grim continent for those interested in democracy. Noting that military domination and fascism are on the rise, he said Venezuela and Columbia are the only democratic governments remaining in South America.

In another prerecorded message, Lloyd Dobbins in Paris reported that the Pompidou government remains obstinately French in the face of European and U.S. attempts to achieve a semblance of unity in the face of the energy crisis. And from Rome, Charles Quinn, also prerecorded, told how living with crisis is "old hat" to most Italians. "In Italy life never changes," he said, "it just gets worse."

Other NBC correspondents heard on the program were Russ Ward and Peter Hackes live from Washington, D.C., and Dennis Trout pre-recorded from Saigon. Although the program seemed to go without a hitch at the Biltmore, back at NBC's Rockefeller Center headquarters the technical crew had considerable difficulty with some of the circuits. Transmissions from Moscow, Cairo and Beirut were delayed. They came in after the luncheon was over.

Russell C. Tornabene, vice president and general manager of NBC Radio News and president of the Deadline Club, said the event offered the first opportunity for a listening audience in the U.S. to question distant news reporters live.

OPC President Jack Raymond introduced Tornabene and the NBC News staffers and promised more top-notch news events for the club.

OLDEST BLACK MUSICAL ORGANIZATION AT OPC

The New Amsterdam Musical Association, Inc., acclaimed the "World's oldest Black musical organization," together with Miss Eva Taylor, famed vocalist whose show business career spans nearly 75 years, will be honored by the Overseas Jazz Club, Friday, March 22. Earl "Fatha" Hines will host.

Among the many jazz greats who will perform in the live twilight jazz tribute will be artists who have appeared or recorded with Miss Taylor, including Tommy Benford, Albert "Happy" Cardwell, Bernard Flood.

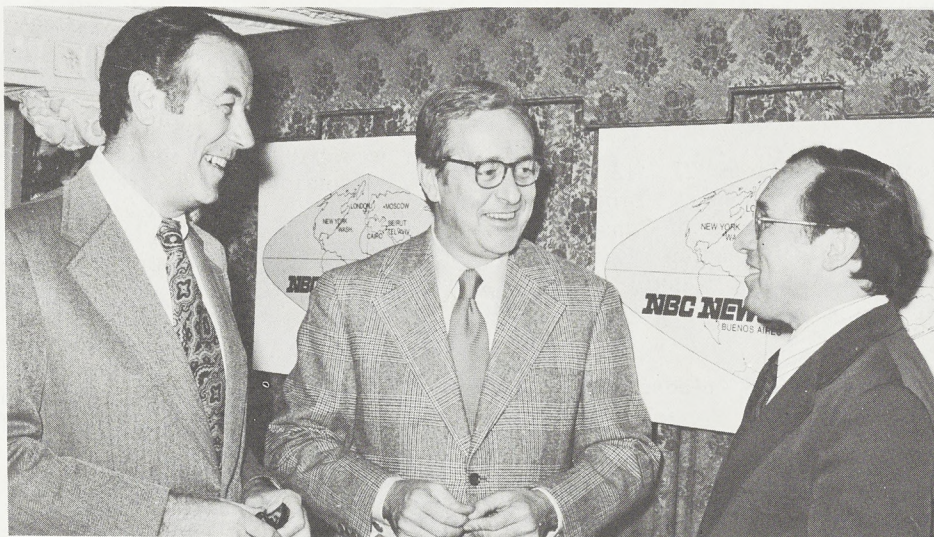
U.S. SENATE URGES

SEARCH FOR NEWSMEN

On February 26, the United States Senate unanimously adopted a resolution urging the President to obtain the release of any newsmen believed held captive in Southeast Asia.

The resolution, introduced by Senator James L. Buckley with 45 co-sponsors and directed by the senator's press secretary Len Saffir, calls on President Nixon to "make every possible diplomatic effort through the Department of State and other relevant agencies to (1) ascertain the truth of the present whereabouts or fate of United States newsmen missing in Southeast Asia, and (2) obtain the release of those still alive and an accounting of those who may be dead."

The American Committee to Free Journalists Held in Southeast Asia, is headed by Walter Cronkite.



NBC Photo

At the "World News Conference" luncheon: OPC president Jack Raymond, John Chancellor, NBC News anchorman, and Russ Tornabene, president of the Deadline Club of New York and NBC vice president.

TALKING SHOP WITH

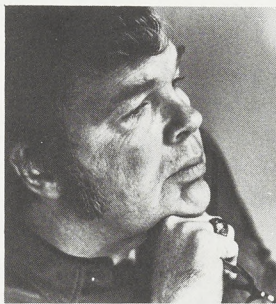
WICKER N.Y. TIMES

By RUTH BIEMILLER

With humor and bite, speaking rapidly in his native tongue — North Carolinian — Tom Wicker on March 7 kicked off *Larry Stessin's* 1974 series of professional evenings.

Excerpts follow from his remarks to 175 OPC members and guests:

On his work: Impossible always to present an idea no one else had had.



Thomas Grey Wicker is full of bad news. Full of mistakes and errors. Press should not have a sense of euphoria because of Washington Post and departure of Agnew.

Fairness Doctrine: Press facing serious legal challenge in Miami Herald case. If Supreme Court rules that every citizen has absolute right of access to press, it will be the end of investigating reporting, predicts Nixon's four appointees will uphold Florida decision against Herald... Press should not try to crack grand jury secrets. But reporters should be free to conduct deep-going investigations not bound to courtroom evidence. Disclosure of totalitarianism or authoritarianism in government more important than sending people to jail.

"WINGS" AUDITION

A modern musical adaptation of Aristophanes' "The Birds," retitled "Wings" for off-Broadway production next fall, will have its backers audition on OPC Theater Night, Monday, March 18, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Music Room of the new OPC headquarters, Hotel Biltmore.

Wilma Dobie will chair the event assisted by co-chairman Jerry Bissell.

The original musical adaptation is being produced by Stephen Wells with book and music by Robert McLaughlin and Peter Ryan. The production is directed by George Black.

Included in the backers audition cast are: Ann Ault, Timothy Landfield, Anne Garlan, Joan Stapleton, and Allen Fitzpatrick. Lead musicians: Peter Ryan, Michael Dougherty and Michael Loos, guitar; Ace Mitchell, piano; and Mike Johnson, percussion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speaking of chairpersons (The Bulletin, March 1), I propose more rather than less precise language. What matters is illustrated by the placement ad in the same issue: "The man selected must have..." Here it is important to use the word "person" to make it clear that the Bulletin favors equal opportunity.

Blind ads enable employers to discriminate because of sex, age, color, etc. without ever getting caught. Within the OPC, they also serve to limit the applications to the membership.

Call Me Miss
Julia Edwards

Your excellent Feb. 15 issue reviewing the history of the OPC reminded me of something that might be of historical interest.

During meetings co-chaired by Clare Booth Luce and Ed Murrow aimed at finding new quarters to replace the old Times Tower offices, Mrs. Luce said firmly that perhaps the proper site for the OPC would be a hotel, where we could rent space and not have to supervise food, liquor, etc. Her idea was vetoed — but has now come full circle!

Joe Dine Washington, D.C.

CORRECTION

Joe Dine, now in Washington with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, caught our copyreader (who that?) asleep.

In our brief item about the poll on the question of trust in TV network newsmen's accuracy (Bulletin, Feb. 1), we misnamed Barbara Walters as Barbara Winters, Howard K. Smith as Harold K. Smith and misspelled Eric Sevareid's name.

Our apologies to the newsmen and thanks to Joe for calling our attention to the serious errors.

DEADLINE CLUB AWARDS

The Deadline Club, the New York City professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, is receiving entries for its journalistic excellence awards in seven categories during 1973.

Deadline for the entries is April 15. Awards will be presented at the Club's annual dinner at the Americana Hotel on Wednesday, May 15.

For information, write to R. Leigh Smith, Awards Chairman, 225 East 66th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, or phone (212) UN1-2121.

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NEW MEMBERS

Associate Resident

Suzanne Hilliard, New York

Associate Non-Resident

Frank W. Chinnoek, Ridgefield, Conn.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Active Resident

Bruce Edward Hodgman, Supervisor
A.P. — New York.

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THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is published by the Overseas Press Club of America, Inc. Air-mailed to members overseas. First-class mail to other members. Payment of 50¢ per 36-space line must accompany classified advertising. No phone orders.

Committee for the Bulletin:

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*

The Bulletin is financially aided by the generous advertising support of Burson-Marsteller.

WhoWhatWhere

By GRACE NAISMITH

HONORS: Robert I. Queen has been thanked by President Nixon, in a letter dated Feb. 19 with a special Commendation award for Queen's recent role in helping to subdue and apprehend two robbery suspects. "Your courage and extraordinary sense of civic responsibility," the letter said in part, "deserves the admiration and appreciation of all your fellow citizens." The action occurred in Flushing when Queen spotted two jewelry thieves dashing to steal a VW to escape in. Blocking it with his own car, until cops arrived, Queen discovered later that the burglars were armed with magnums (pistols). A bleeding man staggered from the jewelry store crying "Stop Thief!" Green did just that... **John Noble Wilford** of The New York Times, who covered the space program for 8 years before becoming an assistant national editor in January, has won the press award given by the National Space Club. He was honored at a dinner in Washington March 8.

PUBLISHING EVENTS: Franklin Folsom, now living in Ward, Colo., had two new books published last year — "The Life and Legend of George McJunkin", Nelson. It is a "well-researched biography of a black cowboy," the Children's Book Service, says, "who made an important anthropological discovery." Another book for young people was "Red Power on the Rio Grande," Follett Publishing Co. Folsom defends a Pueblo Indian revolution in 1680... **Edward Hymoff** is author of a new book about international narcotics trafficking — "The OSS in World War II," Ballentine Books... **Carl Hartman**, AP correspondent for NATO and the Common Market (since 1967) in Brussels, has an article "Homecoming" in the magazine, Reconstructionist, about a visit he made to the town in Romania where his grandfather was born... **C.B. Squire** and his wife, Elizabeth D. Squire, are authors of two new Fleet books for the younger reader — "Heroes of Conservation" (his) and "Heroes of Journalism" (hers). Squire, ex-McGraw-Hill staffer and ex-N.Y. Times correspondent in the Mideast, has been freelancing for three years, mostly writing about oil. Elizabeth Squire is the daughter of retired editor of The News and Observer in Raleigh, N.C., Jonathan Daniels. She is a staffer with The Redding (Conn.) Pilot, which has just won the all-New England best weekly award.

SPEAKER: Gordon Gilmore, retired vice president — public relations — Trans World Airlines, gave the opening address before the International Air Transport Association's public relations conference in Mexico City February 20. His subject was "Airline Public Relations, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." The Gilmores are living in Pompano Beach, Fla. — P.O. Box 3163, Hamilton Station. He writes that he is "delighted to learn of the club's latest and most successful move to the Biltmore."

TEACHER: Writer (prolific) Jack Harrison Pollack is teaching advanced magazine writing at New York University. It is a "workshop" rather than a conventional academic textbook class.

SEEN ON THE SCENE: Sam Pope Brewer and wife, Richard Mooney, **Loren W. Fessler** from Hong Kong Time, **Ernest Hines**, **Myra Waldo**, **Elizabeth Rich**, **Bruce Cassidy**, **Ken-neth Anderson**.

WHO IS BOY OF THE YEAR? Stephen E. Korsen, PR manager, the Nestle Co., is one of the judges searching for the boy. More than 1000 Boys' Clubs can nominate candidates.

OBITUARY

Jack Banner, 67, co-founder of the PR firm Banner & Grief, Ltd., died on February 18 after suffering a heart attack at his home in Long Branch, N.J.

Banner worked on New Jersey newspapers, the N.Y. Herald-Tribune, and other publications, became director of news and special events at WNEW, served as Lt. Commander during World War II. He formed the PR firm in 1945 and retired in 1970 because of ill health.

He is survived by his wife Eulalie, two daughters and three grandchildren.

ten for ten U.S. regional awards, for those who best typify "Juvenile Decency." Foundation will give \$8,500 in scholarships, \$4000 for the "Boy of the Year" and \$500 each for the regional winners.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All bills received by members from the Hotel Biltmore must be paid directly to the Hotel Biltmore. All bills (dues, Blue Cross, club functions, etc.) received from the OPC must be paid directly to the Overseas Press Club.

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

(Continued from page 1)

nationally-known newsmaker, is expected to be announced within a few days.

OPC President *Jack Raymond* said the April 22 dinner date was set during ANPA Week for the convenience of out-of-town publishers and editors attending the convention. All who have made ANPA reservations have been invited to the OPC event.

Ben Grauer will handle the commentary on the "foreign news as it happened," visuals, depicting the prize-winning coverage in each media.

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